

Application No.: 10/646,304

Docket No.: 60680-1748

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A valve stem seal assembly with changeable cap, comprising:  
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and  
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with a second gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer,  
wherein the cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one break-away tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.
2. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.
3. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.
4. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.
5. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.
6. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.
7. (Currently Amended) A valve stem seal assembly, comprising:  
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and  
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with a second gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer,  
wherein said cap is capable of being snap-fit onto said retainer by moving said retainer relative to said cap such that the first gripping member engages said first gripping member, and

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wherein said cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one break-away tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.

8. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.

9. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.

10. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.

11. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.

12. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.

13. (New) A valve stem seal assembly with changeable cap, comprising:

a retainer having an outer surface with at least one first rib extending outward from the outer surface; and

a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with at least one second rib extending inward of the cap for engaging the first rib on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer,

wherein the cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one break-away tab such that the second rib on said cap no longer engages the first rib on said retainer.

14. (New) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.

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15. (New) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.

16. (New) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.

17. (New) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.

18. (New) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.